

Sierra Leone Distance Learning – Midline Questionnaire

Date of Assessment:

Enumerator's Name:

Introduction

Hello, I'm calling from Montrose International. We are working in partnership with Rising Academies and the schools your children attend to conduct research on how effective distance learning has been in Sierra Leone whilst schools have been closed.

Are you the parent or caregiver for the children in this household? [YES, NO]

[If answer = YES] *Continue the questionnaire.*

[If answer = NO] Is the parent or caregiver for the children in this household available to speak? [YES, NO]

[If answer = YES] *Ask for the phone to be handed to the parent/caregiver. Reintroduce yourself to the parent/caregiver and re-state the aim of the study.*

[If answer = NO] *Ask when the parent/caregiver will be available to speak and if it is possible to speak to them on the same number. Take a note of this information on your call register and say that you will call back then. Thank them for their time, end the conversation and close the questionnaire tool. Use a new questionnaire for the next respondent.*

[If answer = YES] Thank you. This questionnaire aims to give us a better understanding of children's education experiences in Sierra Leone since schools have been closed due to COVID-19. The questionnaire will take approximately 10 minutes of your time. Please keep in mind that your participation in this questionnaire is voluntary. The information provided will remain strictly confidential and you will not be identified by your answers. Data will be compiled as a whole with no individual responses tied to your name or any identifying information about you. All information disclosed during the questionnaire will be kept in a secure location. You can withdraw from the questionnaire at any time. Are you happy to start? [YES, NO]

[If answer = NO] *Take a note of this on your call register. Thank them for their time, end the conversation and close the questionnaire tool. Use a new questionnaire for the next respondent.*

[If answer = YES] *Continue the questionnaire.*

Parent Questionnaire

Could I please start by confirming your name?

Our records show that these children are part of your household, [read out children's names from survey sample list]. Is that correct? [YES, NO]

Are there any other school age children (between the ages of 6 and 14) in your household? [YES, NO]

[If answer = YES, remember to enter the child(ren)'s name into Household Roster 1 below and answer the questions in the roster.]

Use Household Roster 1 below for the next part of this questionnaire. Answer each of the questions for each school-age child in the household one by one. Note: Household Roster 1 should include each child confirmed by the respondent from the midline sample list, plus any additional school-age children (between the ages of 6 and 14) who are part of the household that the respondent mentioned. [Use the "+" button at the bottom of the Household Roster to add a new child to the roster.]

Household Roster 1

We will go through each school-age child one by one for the next part of the questionnaire.

Please confirm your child's name.

What is your relationship with [child's name]? [PARENT, SIBLING, OTHER, RELATIVE, NON-RELATIVE]

Has [child's name] attended any school in-person since 31st March, even while government and Rising Academies schools have been closed? [YES, NO, DON'T KNOW, PREFER NOT TO ANSWER]

How likely is it that [child's name] will return to school once the schools are re-opened? Will they...? [Read out all answers except for "Don't know" and "Prefer not to answer" and select one]

- A. Definitely return
- B. Most likely return
- C. Not likely/ probably not return
- D. Definitely NOT return
- E. Don't know
- F. Prefer not to answer

[If answer = C or D] Why is [child's name] unlikely to return to school?

[Let respondent answer and choose matching response.]

- A. Worried about Covid-19
- B. We can't afford it any more
- C. Pregnant
- D. Needs to work
- E. Child doesn't want to
- F. Child is sick
- G. Other [Specify]
- H. Don't know
- I. Prefer not to answer

Remember to fill in the roster for all school age children. Use the "+" button to add any other school-age children to the roster

Has your household received any text messages about educational radio and/or participated in educational activities since schools have been closed? [YES, NO, DON'T KNOW, PREFER NOT TO ANSWER]

Has your household received a phone call from anyone from a school (like a teacher or a headteacher) since schools have been closed? [YES, NO, DON'T KNOW, PREFER NOT TO ANSWER]

[If answer = YES] Since schools closed on 31st March, has a teacher called to speak to your child(ren) about radio lessons and/or to teach them Maths and English? [YES, NO, DON'T KNOW, PREFER NOT TO ANSWER]

[If answer = YES]

- A. How many total times would you estimate that a teacher has called to speak to your child(ren) about radio lessons since schools closed?
- B. How many times have they called to speak to your child(ren) in the last week?
- C. The last time they called, about how many minutes did the call last between the teacher and your child? [If they spoke to multiple children, count only the time for one child i.e. whichever child received the most recent call.]

What are children in the household doing to spend time on education since schools have been closed?
[Read options out loud to the respondent one by one and select all that apply]

- A. Educational TV programmes
- B. Educational radio programmes
- C. Contact with teachers or other school workers in person
- D. Contact with teachers on the phone
- E. Reading books / doing exercises provided by school
- F. Reading school books not provided by the school
- G. Reading other books we have in the household
- H. Teaching by a member of the household
- I. Tutoring by a private tutor
- J. Educational content on the internet
- K. Other official educational content - courses, audiobooks, or lessons
- L. Other [specify]

Taking together all of those activities, think about a typical day last week. How many hours a day did children in the household spend on education on average?

[Read out options A - E]

- A. More than two hours each day (10+ hours/week)
- B. About one hour each day (~5 hrs/ week)
- C. About a half hour each day (~3hrs/week)
- D. A few minutes each day (<1 hr/week)
- E. None (0)
- F. Don't know
- G. Prefer not to answer

[If educational radio programmes answer selected in earlier question] How many hours did children spend listening to radio lessons on a typical day in the last week?

Are any of the children in your household spending less time on education than you'd like them to be?
[YES, NO, DON'T KNOW, PREFER NOT TO ANSWER]

[If answer = YES] What are the reasons?

[Allow respondent to suggest reasons and select from the list below. If the response doesn't match any of the options, select other and specify in the next section. A maximum of 3 responses can be chosen for this question.]

- A. Lack of access to television

- B. Lack of access to radio
- C. Lack of access to internet
- D. Lack of access to educational programmes
- E. Lack of access to textbooks or learning materials
- F. Lack of motivation / interest
- G. Lack of support from teachers and schools
- H. Children are working to earn money
- I. Children are taking care of their siblings
- J. Children are doing housework
- K. Lack of supervision from adults in the household
- L. There is not a good/quiet place to study
- M. Children need to spend their time doing other things
- N. Other (specify)
- O. Other (specify)
- P. Other (specify)

What are the main actions you are taking to support children's education while schools are closed?

[Prompt for multiple responses, select answers that apply.]

- A. Nothing
- B. Talk to children about school
- C. Read to children
- D. Pay for tutoring
- E. Tell children to review their books
- F. Help with homework
- G. Call child's teacher/headteacher/school
- H. Play-based learning activities
- I. Encourage children to do distance learning (radio, television, phone, etc)
- J. Other
- K. Prefer not to answer

This is the end of the questionnaire. Thank you very much for taking the time to speak with me today. You will receive a similar phone call after schools have reopened in Sierra Leone. Have a lovely day.

Click "Save Form and Exit". Make sure the form is marked as "finalised". Note on your call register that the call has been completed.

To upload the form to the server, go to the home screen and select "Send Finalised Form". Select all forms you would like to send and click "Send Selected".